

REMARKS

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

Status of claims

Applicant acknowledges with gratitude the allowance of claims 1-11 and 17-32. Claims 1-32 remain in this application. Claims 12, 13, and 15 are currently being amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 15 depends from claim 14 to provide antecedent basis for “the probe” recited in dependent claim 15. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 15 be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(e)

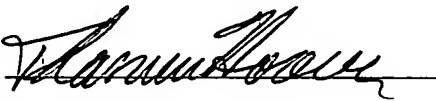
Claims 12, 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bambot (WO01/34031A1). Applicant believes that the rejections of claims 12, 14 and 15 in view of Bambot are moot in view of the claim amendments described hereinbelow.

The Examiner indicates, in paragraph 5 of the Office Action, that claims 13 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action goes on to state that claims 13 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 has been rewritten to include the limitations of dependent claim 13. As such, claim 12 is allowable. Dependent claim 15 is amended to depend from claim 14. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 12, 14 and 15 be withdrawn in view of these amendments and arguments and that these claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (508) 416-2475.

Respectfully submitted,
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